

1 Way, other nonprofits, other businesses to work on
2 them and address them.

3 I have been a United Way Executive
4 Director for nine years, in two other states. I think
5 it's important that you know I chose to move here. I
6 saw outstanding community support from all the
7 businesses, from the people, and from the casinos.
8 I'm excited about the second wave. We're already
9 working with these new casinos to see how we can
10 address and make positive changes for our community.

11 The total economic and social impact of
12 the casino industry in Atlantic County is enormous.
13 As you go forward with your study, I encourage you to
14 remember that whatever your findings may be, we are
15 talking about the lives of people, people like you and
16 me.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

19 Jim Brennan.

20 MR. BRENNAN: Good evening, Madame
21 Chairman, Commissioners, and a special welcome to Mr.
22 Lanni. I remember him from when he was running

1 Caesar's here in town, and I'm tickled to death to see
2 you back.

3 Legalized gambling has had a positive
4 impact on Atlantic City. In February of 1976 when I
5 first became the business agent of the Painters Local
6 277, we had two men working, two. Everybody else was
7 out of work.

8 Today that local has tripled its size.
9 Ninety percent are employed today.

10 Through the '60s and early '70s, we
11 watched an entire generation of young people leave
12 this town. There wasn't any future here. Today,
13 through the gambling industry, the best and the
14 brightest remain at home. They enhance our community
15 because they have a future in this area.

16 Back then most apprentice programs were
17 closed down completely. Today the apprentice programs
18 are thriving throughout the building trades. We're
19 creating opportunities for minorities and females in
20 nontraditional employment, and everybody is having a
21 good time at it.

22 The casino industry creates and provides

1 jobs with above average wages and fringe benefits.
2 Our members are able to purchase homes, automobiles,
3 and the other niceties that enable us to enhance our
4 standard of living.

5 There shouldn't be any room left for the
6 debate on economic issue here. The figures speak for
7 themselves.

8 Now the moral question. For years
9 different levels of our government here in these
10 United States have placed their blessing on legalized
11 gambling in the form of parimutuel betting on horses
12 and dogs, state owned and operated lotteries, raffles
13 conducted by charitable organizations such as the
14 volunteer fire company, rescue squad, Little League
15 ball teams.

16 Government in the majority of states by
17 these actions has told us that gambling is good. Our
18 coaches have told us gambling is good. Leaders in the
19 community service groups have told us gambling is
20 good, and last but not least our churches have told us
21 that gambling is good.

22 Having once entered it, I don't believe

1 any of you can ever forget that great joy that was
2 heard above the roar of the crowd. It was called,
3 "Bingo."

4 Any attempt to curtail the activity of
5 people pursuing enjoyment through a legal enterprise
6 surely must be immoral. An able bodied person willing
7 to work but having no job, I suggest to you, is more
8 immoral.

9 Killing is immoral. Even the needless
10 kill of a goose, especially the goose that lays the
11 golden egg.

12 So I say to you: we here in Atlantic City
13 stand opposed to any further regulation or taxation of
14 this industry, and we implore you please do not cook
15 our goose.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Harvey Fogel.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. FOGEL: Thank you. Good evening.

20 I am a lifelong resident in the area and
21 now a Margate resident. I'm president of the New Jersey
22 Council on Compulsive Gambling, Director of the